

HERE IT IS AT LAST! THE ULTIMATE

# GRAUSTARK

No Diplomacy moves. No articles. No O-O-Hate. No poetry. ONLY PRESS RELEASES.

#131

3 June 1967

## PRESS RELEASES - 1966AA

BERLIN (8 March 1909): The capital of the German Empire has been in an uproar following the Kaiser's recent declaration of war against the English and his announcement that Germany and Austria had entered into a Zweikaiserbund. Speculation is rife about this sudden change in German policy but reliable sources indicate that it was brought about by the failure of the English to live up to agreements made in 1901.

BERLIN (14 March 1909): The details of the event which precipitated the Anglo-German war were revealed today. The official veil of secrecy has been lifted concerning the events of what is coming to be called "The Goeben Incident". When the damaged battle cruiser tried to make use of the port facilities in Liverpool this winter, the local populace rioted, and the defenses of the city were turned against the Goeben. The ship replied with secondary batteries, clearing the dock area. Then the main guns of the fleet which had escorted the Goeben opened up and quickly ended all resistance by the hostile populace. As a punitive measure, a cruiser was dispatched to steam up the Mersey and level Manchester. At this moment, the latest reports indicate only that the fleet is still in command of Liverpool, with the Goeben still undergoing repairs.

ON THE HIGH SEAS WITH THE GERMAN FLEET: Admiral von Tirpitz, who had transferred his flag to the Wilhelm II when the Goeben headed for repairs in Liverpool, has ordered the Second Fleet to make a salient upon the very capital of the British Empire, London. The Admiral announced the raising of the Third and Fourth Fleets. The Third Fleet is composed of dreadnaughts of the Wilhelm II class, and supporting ships. It has been ordered to Danish waters and war maneuvers before engaging the British in combat. The Fourth Fleet, raised at the newly built shipworks on the Baltic, is composed of battle cruisers of the Breslau class, as is the Second Fleet. The Fourth Fleet has been ordered to trials in the Baltic Sea.

After the Wilhelm II had participated in the shelling of Brooklyn College, orders from Berlin instructed the Admiral to commence the destruction of the British contingent of the Bayleov Squadron. In the action that followed, the Wilhelm II suffered several minor hits but completely routed the British forces, sinking two cruisers and sending the remnant fleeing northward. The Wilhelm II is presently in pursuit but this ship has not been able to maintain full speed due to the damage suffered in the battles. Reports already indicate that the British ships have been sighted off Cape Cod.

SMYRNA: The Sultan, angered by the recent Russian attack on Turkish foreign policy, made the following statement: "From the beginning, all we wanted was Bulgaria and Greece, so that we could grow to wait in the grass. We did not trust Austria, for she was ambitious. She wanted Turkey. Austria demanded that Turkey attack either Russia or Italy. We refused, so Austria gave Greece to Italy, pitting Italy against Turkey. Austria had attacked Russia. Austria again offered to divide Russia with Turkey. Again Turkey refused, for Turkey had an alliance with Russia, an alliance which Turkey had kept. Turkey managed to hold off Austria and Italy until England and Germany could bring pressure to bear on them. Now Austria will be destroyed. Turkey has moved to cut her support. England and Germany will war on each other. The Italians will try to survive. As for Russia, we will destroy her, that doublecrosser. Then we shall destroy Italy, Germany, England, and Austria. We declare war on all of them. All Infidels will die. Only Allah and his people will abide."

SMYRNA: English Fleet Eastern Mediterranean go home!

SEVASTOPOL: Foreign Minister J. J. Dygertevsky today announced the news that has been breathlessly awaited by the entire world: Grand Sevastopol will remain neutral in the Anglo-German War. "Rumors of an Anglo-Sevastopolitan alliance against Germany and Balkanalia are without foundation," he stated. "In fact, the only communiqué we have had from Whitehall insisted that we commit suicide by attacking Turkey. England is hereby informed that Sevastopol does not share her own suicidal tendencies." The foreign minister concluded by declaring peace on every European Power.

FAIRWOOD PALACE, THE CRIMEA: Interior Minister Catalinsky and a small band of plotters attempted an abortive coup early this morning. Failure of the plot was due to the alertness of Lt. Igor Brannanenko, recently appointed head of the Palace Guard. The conspirators had entered the palace under the pretext of having the Tsar sign some documents of state. At the entrance to Tsar Andre's private quarters, they informed Brannanenko that His Imperial and Most Sovereign Majesty was expecting them for an audience. Brannanenko alertly realized, however, that the Mad Satirical Monk invariably spends his mornings being entertained by his famous Virgin Feather Dancers. Concluding that the "audience" was a ruse, he therefore arrested the treasonous party. A search of their persons revealed a small arsenal of weapons, poisons, etc. "Good grief," exclaimed Brannanenko, "one of these traitors has obviously just paid a visit to either Chicago or Salona..."

SEVASTOPOL: An emergency cabinet meeting was called today following the attempted coup of Boris Catalinsky, former Minister of the Interior. Though he technically presided over the meeting, the Tsar spent most of his time giggling "Number Six!" or humming a tune with the chorus of "Circus T. Maximus is the minimalist." In fact, the Tsar's most memorable action of the entire meeting was to distribute buttons to all present which read: "Mad Satirical Monk, We Love You". The assembled ministers soon tired of the Emperor's actions and got down to the business of deciding who was to be the next Minister of the Interior. Everyone agreed that he had to be a man of the highest qualifications, i. e., someone totally without moral scruples. Admiral Bayleov suggested Baron Munncchhausen for the job, but withdrew the suggestion when Michael Celskriki reminded him that the Baron had once kissed his mother, thus automatically disqualifying himself. J. J. Dygertevsky suggested Rozhdeetvevsky Walkoff, but Walkoff was rejected when it was pointed out that he had once managed to keep an alliance the entire length of a Diplomacy game. First Minister of Truth, Propaganda, and Censorship Carl Turnoff advanced the name of Cesare Bordscha, but this suggestion also was rejected on the highly plausible ground that anyone capable of his demographic accomplishments in the Balkans must obviously be capable of some form of love. After hours of wrangling, the Tsar, the former A. B. Swensonov, interrupted the cabinet debate with the suggestion of M. J. Zelazniévski. Carl Turnoff immediately placed Zelazniévski's name in nomination, recalling, "I once played a game of Diplomacy with him, and he seemed to have all the necessary qualifications for this important post." Grand Marshal le Tournier seconded the nomination, and Admiral Bayleov squealed, "I third it! I third it!" J. J. Dygertevsky remained skeptical about Zelaznievski's ability to handle the Interior Ministry, however. "Why, I once met him," he exclaimed, "and he seemed quite a nice chap." Carl Turnoff promised to arrange a Diplomacy game in which both Dygertevsky and Zelaznievski would play to eliminate any such doubts from the mind of the Foreign Minister. Action on the nomination was suspended pending the outcome of the game.

SEVASTOPOL: Can it truly be that the Empress Lucrezia's bed chamber has been occupied by a sole occupant of late? Surely the Empress will discover some method of avoiding the dilemma that the discovery of Bordschatiazin has created for her...

FROM THE CLARION EAGLE'S COLUMN "THE CLARIION GATHERER": Recently Professor J. B. Bleedingheart, noted pacifist polemicist, and Mr. Clark Gunsel, noted advocate of war, debated the possibility of U. S. entry into the current European war. Bleedingheart argued against entry on the grounds that war in general is destructive, costly in lives, and provides no solution for human problems. Mr. Gunsel replied by heaving 15 minutes

This is  
O At  
P Great  
E Intervals  
R This  
A Appears  
T To  
I Inflame  
O Optic  
N Nerves

worth of eggs at J. B. The professor is, of course, wrong. War does indeed resolve human problems, such as conflicts arising out of greed, avarice, and aggressive tendencies, etc., etc., which can be dealt with in no manner other than coercion. Individuals have laws to restrain them. But groups of men, which are just as lawless as individuals, have no such restraints when organized as nations. Therefore, they use a more unrestrained form of coercion - fighting - to settle their differences. In a sense, Mr. Gunsell's reply was his best answer to the professor, since it demonstrates the helplessness of those who will not resort to force in a world governed by force.

BROOKLYN: Reporters from the Brooklyn GRAUSTARK today interviewed Sevastopolian sailor Ivan Miryanin, who had been left behind drunk in a Bay Ridge bar when the Bay-leov Squadron sailed away.

"We are trying to establish," a reporter asked Miryanin, "whether, as the Olarion Eagle asserts, war resolves human problems such as conflicts arising out of greed, avarice, and aggressive tendencies."

"It sure does!" the Sevastopolian sailor replied in a fluent English learned while he was in custody of the First Airborn Horse Marines. "Before duh war, I wuz a peasant. I had conflicts arising out of greed, like da time I beat up duh bailiff when he caught me stealin' chickens. And I had aggressive tendencies real bad, like when I got drunk an' killed duh Brudders Karamazeltov with uh axe. But den I joined duh navy, and dat solved muh human problems real good. If I stole anything, or busted up uh building, it was all right because I wuz hoitin' duh enemies of Grand Sevastopol. An' when I killed some guys, dsy guy me a medal for it instead uh arrestin' me. Duh problems like I had could be dealt wid in no manner udder dan coercion, 'cause I resorted tuh force in uh world governed by force."

BROOKLYN: At last reports, the alleged Princess Svetsoxa, who claims to be the daughter of the Empress Lucrezia (alias Pope Joan II) is still working on her book. Her publisher, Mr. Mutimus Nightstand, claims that this book will expose all the scandals of the Balkanian and Sevastopolian courts. The editor of GRAUSTARK, however, has ventured the opinion that, at the rate the Empress herself is exposing these scandals, there will be nothing left for her putative daughter to write about.

Meanwhile, it is rumored around publishing circles that one of the reasons the book is so delayed is that Princess Svetsoxa's publisher has not yet paid her the promised advance. As a result, she has had to go to work as a stevedore to support herself, and has less time for writing.

The courts of Beograd, Salona, Vienna, and Sevastopol still refuse to confirm or deny Princess Svetsoxa's claim to be the eldest daughter of the Empress Lucrezia.

SMYRNA: Kill! Kill! All infidels must die!

TIJUANA (17 Sept. 1909): The first High Mass to be conducted by Bishop Antonio Bordsha (formerly Pope Innocent XIV) was celebrated at the Blue Fox here with a capacity audience. The Mass was a Requiem for the late (sic) Giovanni Beccaccio, His Excellency's favorite author. The singing of the Mass was accompanied by the performance of a "Dansa Suggestiva", choreographed by the Bishop himself. The section entitled "Orgia" was interrupted when the Blue Fox (renamed "the Cathedral of St. Francis the Fecund") was raided by Mayor Antonio T. Arroz y Pollo and the entire Baja California Territorial Militia. The accompanying music was, appropriately, the "Dies Irae".

BOSTON (25 Sept. 1909): The Province of New England was today officially declared a part of the Balkanian Empire. Governor Julius Bordsha announced also, that the Balkanian Empire has recognized the suzerainty of the Grand Empire of Sevastopol over New York and East Jersey, while German rule in West Jersey and Pennsylvania would also be recognized. "As for Canada," said His Excellency, "well, the Turks can have that." Rumors that the rest of the United States would be ceded to Queen Lurleen I of East Mobile and Points South have not yet been confirmed.

SALONA (30 Oct. 1909): The entire Empire is preparing today for the grand celebration of the Empress' 21st birthday tomorrow. In view of the fact that Her Majesty comes of age only this year, His Excellency Count Ritorno Vincitore, the Foreign Minister, has been asked by several reporters how Her Majesty could possibly be the mother of the so-called "Princess Svetsoxa", who is six-feet-four-inches tall and is about 22 to 25 years old. "Obviously, She could not," was his reply. "It is well known that the Bordshas are prolific, but having babies before they are born - or at the age of 1 or 2 years,

say - is not among their attributes.

BEOGRAD (1 Nov. 1909): The Empress' birthday party, which began yesterday, is still going on. The festivities and celebrations, made even more meaningful by news of new victories at the front, threaten to break all records. The height of the celebration last night came when King James III of England was lynched in Effigy.

EFFIGY, HUNGARY (3 Nov. 1909): Reports that King James III was lynched here have not yet been confirmed.

BROOKLYN (6 Nov. 1909): Mrs. Svetsoxa Hullabluia, who claims to be Princess Svetsoxa, daughter of the Empress Lucrezia, was interviewed at her place of employment - the Bush Terminal docks, where she works as a stevedore.

"What is your reaction to the report from Salona, that the Empress is only 21, and thus too young to be your mother?" she was asked.

"Mommy is a big liar!" the six-foot-four exile replied. "Everybody knows that she was born nine months after the Walpurgisnacht party that celebrated Grandpa's election as Pope in 1866. That makes her more than forty years old." Princess Svetsoxa refused to answer questions about her own age.

"When will your book about the scandals of Lucrezia's court be written?" she was asked.

"How should I know?" the Princess replied. "Mr. Nightstand's ghost writer is probably working on it right now."

"You mean you aren't writing your own book?"

"Gracious me, I guess I shouldn't have said that. That's why Mr. Nightstand got me this nice job here, so I wouldn't strain my mind with writing and say the wrong things. I guess I better not talk to you any more." So saying, Princess Svetsoxa hoisted a crated linotype machine to her shoulder and walked up the gangplank of the Sevastopolitan freighter Countess Hagnelda, outward bound for the Squiji Islands.

SEVASTOPOL: The Synod of Sevastopol today voted unanimously to excommunicate the Editor of GRAUSTARK for his perfidy in printing only the Austrian press releases last time.

SEVASTOPOL: Since the government of Austria acknowledges that the Sevastopolitan government tells the truth about the miracle drug Bordschabiazin, First Minister of Truth, etc., Carl Turnoff today promised to reveal the full truth about the drug at his next press conference. Turnoff noted that this conference would not be held until around December of the year because of what he referred to as "&%\$#/?@# finals".

#### PRESS RELEASE - 1966B

ENGLAND to ITALY: WHAT the Hell are you doing? The Turks must pass through Italian territory to gain builds. In an agreement of an alliance against Turkey, I will accept any terms of alliance you care to make.

If you are interested, send me the terms of the alliance to Den Internationale Højskole, Helsingør, Denmark.

#### PRESS RELEASE - 1965Q

CONSTANTINOPLE: Kaiser Smythe is avenged!

#### PRESS RELEASES - 1967V

PARIS: Marchers on Les Champs Elysees and Unter den Linden carrying "Snoopy and the Red Baron must never meet" signs were fired on by Russian and English agents in an attempt to foment civil war.

LONDON: A petition to "Save the Red Baron" was presented at 10 Downing Street by a delegation of Peaceniks yesterday.

PARIS: finks die

LONDON (7 February 1901): London today is under a blanket of snow, and the wind whistles along the almost deserted streets, making we few who are out of doors feel that it is less February than Fimbulwinter. And possibly it is.

There is little in the world today about which to rejoice, for that matter, little that cannot be viewed without fear. The reign of Edward VII was not four months old when he and his government were called upon to face the humiliation of defeat in Africa, and the loss of any possibility of completing the Africa Express. It now appears that the same crisis, or its extension further north, threatens to plunge a not-altogether unwilling Europe into war.

Prime Minister Townsend has ordered the fleet to stand ready for orders, and the army is mobilized and ready. The few other people on the streets, in fact, are for the most part military, the few civilians being mostly on their way to Whitehall, Downing Street, or Parliament.

Townsend is in the least optimistic privately, although he speaks in public of our "duty to civilization" and "barbarians not daring to threaten our sacred shores". In private he has authorized measures which taken as a whole mean that he not only expects a war, but that he expects a long and bloody war. A war which "England and her allies must not lose, for if they do people will say only 'There failed the advance guard of mankind'" to quote the Townsend of younger days, when he was M. P. from the Midlands and urged war over Morocco. He has matured, but the rest of Europe has not.

#### 1967U • PRESS RELEASES

ROME: Pope Innocent LXIX today proclaimed the Mediterranean to be a Ducal lake and hired contractors to build a summer retreat amid the palms of North Africa.

MONACO: To all world powers in these touchy, explosive days: Piece is better than war!

BERLIN (InterNews Serv.): Beware of Austrian alliances.

PARIS: As war broke out in Europe, the French Foreign Ministry on the Quai d'Orsay remained quiet and shuttered. Inquiry made of the sole guard revealed that the war was not at fault, but the personal indisposition of the Foreign Minister. "His wife eloped with a young man from Axminster," the guard explained, "and the poor man is inconsolable."

ABERWARTHMINCHT, WALES: For many years an elderly anchorite named David the Hermit has lived in a cave in the hills near this tiny Welsh village. Today, however, police invaded the remote cave and took the hermit into custody on "a statutory offense".

"I don't propose to discuss the matter," said the District Superintendent. But a young constable held his nose and commented, "Shocking! Absolutely disgusting!"

EALING, ENGLAND: Police today took a young lady into custody. No formal charges were filed, and authorities told the press that "this is mainly for her own protection". Curiously, Interpol reported similar cases from Wheeling, West Virginia, U. S. A. and from Darjeeling, India.

BIRMINGHAM: Charges of an unspecified nature against the Bishop of Birmingham were dropped today when several ladies in his congregation refused to make accusations for the public record. "Not for the world would I make trouble for our dear Bishop," said one woman.

KHARTOUM, SUDAN: At first observers in this African city thought that the Mahdist wars had broken out again. But the racket was soon traced to a downtown apartment, where police took into custody a husky young woman and a slender youth who shrieked incessantly. The trouble was apparently caused by an argument between them, the nature of which was not made public.

PRESS RELEASES - 1966R

SQUIJI ISLANDS (7 Feb, 1911): Through the gloom of this mid-summer's night, if one listens closely can be heard gales of laughter, and they appear to come from the home where resides one Max, German Consul in the Squiji Islands, his wife, and his two stepsons, Johann and Friedrich. Approaching closer, one may make out words.

"Ach, Mags, diss iss a day of vich we can be proud. Nod only did der verst uff der reparations moneys from der Vrenoh some, bud ve haf ad lazt gotted rid ov Johann und Vriedrich."

"Ja, happy I am, bud oannod you zimpathize mit von Kluck und his last ditch effort to save der Reich. Id iss very much I am zorry for them: Gedding der zib-code 'uff Paris wrong iss nod a very gourageous way do go."

"Ah, bud you iss ride, Mags. Bud shtoopid dey vass, too, to get der Zib-code wrong. Ve made very sure of der zib-code of Juneau yesterday when ve send dot package."

At this point the laughter begins again, only to be interrupted by a knock at the door.

"Is this the residence of a Herr Otto von Hohenzollern?"

"Ja," said Otto timidly, "Ich bin Otto."

"I have a package here that you mailed to Juneau, Alaska. The postage is insufficient, and besides, you forgot to mark it 'Perishable'!"

MOSCOW (IRNS Editorial): If the Turk arranges a tie with the French may he go to Gehenna. The Frenchman va bruler en l'enfer.

AVIGNON: Pope Urban IX today expressed concern over the approaching end of the European war. "Whether the infidel Turks or France is the victor," he told an audience on the Feast Day of St. Bertran de Born, "we cannot escape the fact that the war will soon be over. This is an intolerable state of affairs, when the Church Militant has no one against whom to be Militant. Accordingly, the College of Cardinals is presently studying the situation in the Far East, to see whether the Russo-Sarawak conquest of the Indian Ocean region merits Our attention.

A reporter asked the Pope, who was elected after the Avignon cardinals deposed Sylvester IV, whether he would intervene for or against Sarawak. "That question is irrelevant," His Holiness replied. "The important thing is that we get into the war. On which side, doesn't matter."

SQUIJI ISLANDS: Pope Sylvester IV, speaking from his headquarters at Vatioan II, again anathematized the "Anti-Pope Urban IX" for his advocacy of war. "We're all perfectly peaceful here," he replied. "In addition to his schismatic tendencies, I see the much more serious crime of heresy in the recent pronouncements of the Avignon cardinals. These changes in the Mass, for example - who is this 'Prince of War' to whom their prayers are now addressed?"

PRESS RELEASES - 1965F

BEAUCOUILLOON: Trading slackened around the tables of the Grand Ducal Bourse as it became evident that both England and France are fading before the overwhelming might of Turkey. With the general expectation of a Turkish victory, the action here returned to roulette, craps, fan tan, vingt-et-un, and the more conventional amusements of this tiny Grand Duchy.

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GRAUSTARK, the oldest postal Diplomacy bulletin, is published by John Boardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$1. This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.